

Provisional Vital Statistics for March 2004

Live births increased in March as 6,873 Missouri babies were born compared with 6,247 one year earlier. Cumulative births for January to March also increased, but for the 12 months ending with March, births decreased slightly.

Deaths increased in March as 5,851 Missourians died compared with 5,065 in March 2003. Cumulative deaths for January—March also increased, but cumulative deaths for the 12 months ending with March decreased from 57,369 to 55,256.

The **Natural increase** for Missouri in March was 1,022 (6,873 births minus 5,851 deaths). For the 12

months ending with March, the natural increase rose by 10.2 percent from 19,739 to 21,759.

Marriages and Dissolutions of marriage both decreased for all three time periods shown in the table below. For the 12 months ending with March, the marriage to divorce ratio decreased from 1.83 to 1.78.

Infant deaths decreased for all three time periods shown below. For the 12 months ending with March, the infant death rate decreased from 8.8 to 7.5 per 1,000 live births.

PROVISIONAL VITAL STATISTICS FOR March 2004

Item	<u>March</u>				<u>Jan.-Mar. cumulative</u>				<u>12 months ending with March</u>				
	<u>Number</u>		<u>Rate*</u>		<u>Number</u>		<u>Rate*</u>		<u>Number</u>		<u>Rate*</u>		
	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>
Live Births	6,247	6,873	12.5	14.1	17,911	19,396	12.7	13.6	77,108	77,015	13.0	13.6	13.5
Deaths	5,065	5,851	10.1	12.0	15,488	17,338	11.0	12.1	57,369	55,256	9.5	10.1	9.7
Natural increase	1,182	1,022	2.4	2.1	2,423	2,058	1.7	1.4	19,739	21,759	3.5	3.5	3.8
Marriages	2,555	2,045	5.1	4.2	7,190	6,324	5.1	4.4	42,111	39,120	7.4	7.4	6.8
Dissolutions	2,110	1,757	4.2	3.6	5,621	5,149	4.0	3.6	22,950	21,974	4.1	4.0	3.8
Infant deaths	64	41	10.2	6.0	172	139	9.6	7.2	678	574	7.9	8.8	7.5
Population base (in thousands)	...	...	5,704	5,738	...	...	5,704	5,738	...	...	5,646	5,681	5,713

* Rates for live births, deaths, natural increase, marriages and dissolutions are computed on the number per 1000 estimated population. The infant death rate is based on the number of infant deaths per 1000 live births. Rates are adjusted to account for varying lengths of monthly reporting periods.

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